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February 12, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone 3 West Miller Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support- SB 397 – Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax – Exemptions – Data Center

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1938, Choptank Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit organization that exists to provide reliable and cost effective electricity. This service improves the quality of life for our 54,350 member-owners.

As a cooperative, Choptank Electric maintains a deep commitment to the communities it serves, which covers about two-thirds of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Economic development, especially in our rural areas is necessary in providing additional resources to our schools, communities, and improving the livelihood of everyone.

SB 397 seeks to bring economic vitality and spark growth for data centers to locate in the state of Maryland. Cooperatives throughout the country, including Choptank, have key account specialist staff who work closely with state and county economic development departments. Choptank is committed to using all available resources to build strong partnerships and opportunities for data center businesses to locate here in Maryland.

Choptank Electric and its member-owners ask you to support SB 397 and encourage economic growth throughout the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Matt Teffeau Manager, Government Affairs Choptank Electric Cooperative

